

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ENFORCING TIMED  
AGREEMENTS**

**ABSTRACT**

A system is provided for enforcing program content agreements between a program distributor and a client. The program content can be restricted so as to prevent any playback of program content once unauthorized interference is detected. Furthermore, a specific time value can be used as part of a time message to indicate an expiration of a time stamp. Thus, an attack using fabricated time messages or buffered time messages can be averted.

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